

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01

IO-14 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 058445

R 041900Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7697

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: FAULKNERITE UNIONISTS TO ORGANIZE ON PRECINCT
LEVEL

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST:

BEGIN SUMMARY SOME 300 FAULKNERITE UNIONISTS ATTENDED
DELEGATE CONFERENCE NEAR BELFAST JANUARY 26 TO HEAR
BRIAN FAULKNER EXPLAIN THAT HIS EFFORTS TO WORK
CONSTITUTION ACT, COALITION EXECUTIVE AND SUNNINGDALE
REPRESENT TRUE UNIONISM, WHILE ACTIVITIES OF CRAIG,
PAISLEY AND WEST THREATEN TO BREAK LINK WITH UK.
DELEGATES NAMES STEERING COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE FAULKNER-
ITES AT EVERY PRECINCT IN NI AND SCHEDULED NEW
CONFERENCE IN ABOUT SIX WEEKS. IT IS CLEAR FAULKNERITES
WILL HAVE ONE LAST GO AT REFORMING ORGANIZATION AND
CHANGING VIEWS OF ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY BEFORE FORMING
NEW PARTY THAT WOULD CERTAINLY ALSO HAVE "UNIONIST" IN
ITS NAME (PERHAPS "PROVISIONAL UNIONISTS" TO HARRY
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WEST'S "OFFICIALS"?) END SUMMARY

1. MORE THAN 300 FAULKNERITE UNIONISTS MET SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 AT HOTEL NEAR BELFAST TO SET UP ORGANIZATION WITHIN UNIONIST PARTY TO SUPPORT POLICIES OF FAULKNER AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN EXECUTIVE AND IN ASSEMBLY UNIONIST PARTY.

2. DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE CAME FROM ALL PARTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND. UNIONIST CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS FAVORING FAULKNER'S POLICIES WERE GENERALLY REPRESENTED BY THEIR OFFICERS, WHILE FAULKNER'S ASSOCIATES HAD INVITED LIKE-MINDED PARTY WORKERS FROM AREAS WHERE PARTY ORGANIZATION IS CONTROLLED BY NEW OFFICIAL UNIONISTS OF HARRY WEST. PRESS REPORTED THAT MOST DELEGATES LOOKED MIDDLE-CLASS, AND ONE OF SPEAKERS WARNED GROUP AGAINST BECOMING "MIDDLE-CLASS INTELLECTUALS" WITH NO POWER BASE.

3. IN MAJOR SPEECH CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ASSEMBLY UNIONIST PARTY LEADER BRIAN FAULKNER ENUNCIATED UNIONIST PARTY PRINCIPLES: PRESERVATION OF UNION WITH GREAT BRITAIN, STRONG REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, PROSCRIPTION OF VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION OF ALL SECTIONS OF COMMUNITY IN JUST AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY, AND SUPPORT FOR COALITION EXECUTIVE WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY IN LINE WITH FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES. FAULKNER SAID CONSTITUTION HAS FAULTS, BUT WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT IS SOVEREIGN AND HAS PASSED IT WITH SUPPORT OF ALL THREE NATIONAL PARTIES. SO UNIONISTS MUST ACCEPT IT AND TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT, INCLUDING ITS REQUIREMENT FOR, IN EFFECT, COALITION GOVERNMENT OF PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS, WHO MUST ACCEPT CONSTITUTION ACT PROVISION THAT THERE CAN BE NO CHANGE IN NI'S POSITION WITHIN UK BEFORE 1983, AND THEN ONLY BY MAJORITY VOTE. FAULKNER ADDED THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN POLICE FORCES OF NI AND REPUBLIC LONG AGO TO HEAD OFF IRA CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS COST SO MANY LIVES, AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND PROVIDES WAY THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. THERE IS ALSO REQUIREMENT THAT DUBLIN ACCEPT NORTH'S STATUS, AND PROSPECT THAT NORTHERN CATHOLICS COULD IDENTIFY WITH SECURITY FORCES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL WITHOUT COMPROMISING UNIONIST PRINCIPLES. BUT UNIONISTS WILL ONLY RATIFY SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT WHEN PERSUADED THAT ALL PARTIES TO IT WILL HONOR UNDERTAKINGS AND PROVE GOOD FAITH.

4. DEALING WITH QUESTION WHETHER THERE WOULD BE NEW UNIONIST PARTY IN NI (WHICH MEDIA HAD SPECULATED WOULD BE OUTCOME OF DAY'S MEETING), FAULKNER ATTACKED

DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS AND VANGUARD UNIONISTS AS DIVIDERS
OF PARTY, AND ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL UNDER HARRY WEST AS
ESPOUSING POLICIES WHICH UNIONISTS ELECTED UNDER PARTY
ELECTION MANIFESTO COULD NOT ACCEPT. HE AND OTHER
ASSEMBLY UNIONISTS WHO WERE FAITHFUL TO THIS MANIFESTO
WERE THE TRUE UNIONISTS; OTHERS WERE CONFUSED, REJECTING
SUNNINGDALE BUT HAVING NOTHING TO PUT IN ITS PLACE,
WRECKING ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN MAKING IT WORK. FAULKNER

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SAID HARRY WEST AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE UNDER LEADERSHIP
OF DR. PAISLEY, WHO HAD STAGED "DISPLAY OF FASCIST
BEHAVIOR AT STORMONT" ON VERY DAY THAT WEST HAD URGED
PAISLEY AND CRAIG TO REJOIN PARTY. FAULKNER AND HIS
FOLLOWERS WOULD OPPOSE WRECKERS BY DOING THEIR DUTY AND
PROVIDING GOOD GOVERNMENT; IT WAS UP TO DELEGATES TO
RALLY
AROUND THEM "REAL UNIONISTS" WHO WANT PEACE, ORDER AND

GOOD GOVERNMENT BY SETTING UP LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. WITH WORLD OPINION ON SIDE OF UNIONISTS AGAINST TERRORISM, PARTIES AT WESTMINSTER DEDICATED TO MAKING CONSTITUTION ACT SUCCEED, AND IDENTIFICATION OF ROMAN CATHOLICS WITH INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT, SUNNINGDALE, WHEN IMPLEMENTED, WILL OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH FAIRER AND MORE PROSPEROUS NORTHERN IRELAND THAN YET SEEN.

5. DELEGATES ADOPTED "STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES," ECHOING MAIN POINTS IN FAULKNER SPEECH. THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTED 36-MEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE (THREE FROM EACH WESTMINSTER/ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY) TO ESTABLISH ORGANIZATION AT EVERY ONE OF NI'S 950 ELECTORAL PRECINCTS, WHICH WOULD ELECT REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND FURTHER CONFERENCE WITHIN SIX WEEKS.

6. (LOYALIST) UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL REJOICED IN BEING SEPARATE FROM FAULKNER, CLAIMED HE WAS DEPARTING FROM MAINSTREAM UNIONISM, AND WISHED HIM WELL WITH HIS NEW FOLLOWING OF MIDDLE-CLASS INTELLECTUALS AND HIS NEW REPUBLICAN FRIENDS. (UNIONIST) NEWS LETTER WELCOMED FACT THAT FAULKNERITES HAD NOT GONE ALL THE WAY TOWARD FORMING A NEW PARTY, AND WISHED SOMEHOW THAT UNIONIST UNITY COULD BE REDISCOVERED. (CATHOLIC) IRISH NEWS GRUDGINGLY ADMITTED FAULKNER HAS COME TO SEE NEED FOR FAIR TREATMENT OF CATHOLICS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT EXECUTIVE MUST BE GIVEN CHANCE TO WORK.

7. COMMENTS:

A. WE REPORT FAULKNER'S SPEECH AT SOME LENGTH BECAUSE IT CONTAINS KEYNOTES OF HIS APPEAL TO TRADITIONAL UNIONISTS FOR SUPPORT. HE PORTRAYS WORKING OF CONSTITUTION ACT, EXECUTIVE AND SUNNINGDALE AS STRENGTHENING UNION WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND LOYALISTS AS PURSUING POLICIES LIKELY TO LEAD TO BREAK OF LINK.

B. ATTEMPT TO LINK NEW OFFICIAL UNIONISTS WITH DISRUPTIVE AND VIOLENT ASSEMBLY TACTICS OF PAISLEYITES AND VANGUARD IS NOT ENTIRELY FAIR, SINCE MOST ULSTER UNIONIST ASSEMBLYMEN HAVE BEEN WELL-MANNERED IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO EXECUTIVE. BUT THIS LINE WENT DOWN WELL WITH FAULKNER'S LARGELY MIDDLE-CLASS AUDIENCE, AND SEEMS LIKELY TO APPEAL TO OTHER UNIONISTS WHO DEPLORE VIOLENCE AND OTHER UNMANNERLY BEHAVIOR.

C. NAME AND CONCEPT OF UNIONISM, AND MANTLE OF HISTORIC SUCCESSION FROM CARSON, CRAIGAVON AND BROOKEBOROUGH, STILL MEAN A LOT TO ORDINARY PROTESTANTS. THEREFORE

FAULKNERITES WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE MORE GO AT REGAINING
CONTROL OF ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL AND RETURNING IT TO
THE RIGHT PATH BEFORE ESTABLISHING A NEW PARTY ON BASIS
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OF ORGANIZATION NOW BEING FORMED. THAT PARTY WILL
CERTAINLY BEAR THE NAME "UNIONIST," AND SOME WAGS HAVE
SUGGESTED IT SHOULD BE CALLED THE "PROVISIONAL UNIONISTS"
VIS-A-VIS MR. WEST'S "OFFICIALS."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NATIONAL UNIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON01597
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740258/aaaaccke.tel
Line Count: 238
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAULKNERITE UNIONISTS TO ORGANIZE ON PRECINCT LEVEL
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005